

MIAMI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
25 N BROADWAY  
PERU, IN 46970  
May 4, 2015

Chairman Francis called the meeting to order. All Commissioners are present.

**CITY OF PERU**

Mayor James Walker came before the Board of Commissioners with an Interlocal Agreement for North Central Indiana Regional Planning Council. The agreement would provide the county \$8500.00 in reimbursement towards the total annual billing.

Commissioner West made a motion to sign the Interlocal Agreement. Commissioner Hamman 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

**PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**

Bruce Embrey, Miami County Prosecutor, came to the Board to discuss the new time clock policy. Mr. Embrey informed the Board that due to staff cuts, his 2 employees would not be punching the time clock and does not think it is necessary. Mr. Embrey went on to explain that he feels as though the employees are being “spied” on and that the Board of Commissioners have made a new rule and did not bother to inform the employees. Commissioner Francis explained that all employees were notified that they would be punching a time clock and that these are not new rules, but rather rules already defined in the employee handbook. Commissioner Francis went on to state that any departments that have had special exceptions already in place for early start/late end times, working through lunches, etc. would still remain. Mr. Embrey feels as though the Board of Commissioners need to have better communication with the Department Heads and all employees because it has proven to be a problem and ongoing issue.

**YMCA**

Kathy Brehmer, YMCA, brought in a contract for the 53-11 program for signatures. The following documents were presented:

- Agreement to Public Hearing for Purchase of a van
- Authorizing Resolution by Board of Commissioners for participation in program
- Pass thru Agreement
- Certification of Equipment
- Statement of Special Exceptions
- List of Program Requirements

Commissioner West made a motion to sign all the documents for the 53-11 program. Commissioner Hamman 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

**RESIDENTS OF SEASE DRIVE**

Residents of Sease Drive came before the Board of Commissioners regarding standing water from a bad culvert. The residents explained that when the repairs to Business 31 were made, it created a drainage problem at Sease Drive. The residents are concerned because there is the threat of serious damage to a vehicle or person. The Board stated that they would speak to Mike Sisson at the Highway Department to look at it. The Board mentioned that they would see about placing a barricade at the site until repairs could be made. The Board will contact the residents once they have further information.

**AGA TERMINATION LETTER**

The Board of Commissioners received a request for signatures for a termination letter to AGA. The letter would be terminating AGA as the county insurance broker and naming Apex Benefits as the new broker. Commissioner West made a motion to sign the termination letter. Commissioner Hamman 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF CONGRESSIONAL SCHOOL**

The Board received a request for signatures on the Annual Report of Congressional School report. Commissioner West made a motion to sign the report. Commissioner Hamman 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

## **REMOVAL OF ROAD SIGNS**

The Board of Commissioner received a request to remove signs per suggestion of County Highway Engineer Ken Einselen. New signs were put in place by the railroad and Mr. Einselen recommended removing duplicated signage at NB CR 450 East, SB CR 450 E, NB CR 550 E, and SB CR 550 E. Commissioner West made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Hamman 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

## **RESOLUTION-WABASH RIVER CORRIDOR ROAD**

The Board reviewed a Resolution Establishing the Wabash River Corridor Road in Miami County. The resolution would allow the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission to supply signage for Wabash River Road to counties, cities, and towns to mark the designated route of the Wabash River. Commissioner West made a motion to sign resolution 5/4/2015. Commissioner Hamman 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

## **SECURETECH**

The Board received a quote for a new 2-year warranty on the panic button system. After review, the Board agreed to have Tim Hunter, Courthouse Security, look at the quote to make sure all the coverage quoted was necessary. Mr. Hunter made contact with SecureTech and was waiting to hear back on a specific item. Commissioner West asked to have the paperwork brought back to their next meeting and take action at that time.

## **RECORDER**

The Board received a copy of a notice that the Recorder's Office, due to the implementation of the time clocks and lack of staff, would be closing their office daily from 12-1pm for lunch. The Board asked Brenda Weaver, Miami County Recorder, to clarify the notice, as they did not understand what bearing the time clocks had on keeping her office open during the lunch hour. Mrs. Weaver stated that it was best for office to do that. Mrs. Weaver went on to explain that her office has always had 2 full-time employees and they would work through their lunch hours. Due to her full-time employee being reduced to part-time status, she is no longer going to remain open during lunch hours. Commissioner Francis clarified that Mrs. Weaver's office lost 7 hours a week and that she has another part-time employee that could be helping to cover lunch hours and suggested that they stagger their lunch hours like most of the other courthouse office do. Mrs. Weaver feels as though other offices on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor close for lunches and it is her choice as an elected official to make the choice to close her office. Commissioner Hamman stated for the record that Mrs. Weaver has always made the claim that she is a Public Servant, but it did not appear that she was taking the public into consideration with the choice to close during lunch hours. Commissioner Hamman went on to state that many people may utilize their lunch hour to do county business and it is an inconvenience to close. Mrs. Weaver stated that if they see that it is causing a hardship or have complaints they will review the issue, but her office would be closed from 12-1pm beginning May 6, 2015.

## **EMA**

Kris Marks, EMA Director came before the Board to discuss filling the Administrative Assistant's position in his office. Mr. Marks stated that there is confusion regarding the part-time pay and requested that the new position remain at \$13.50 based on the changes to the 2015 budgets. Commissioner Francis could not recall how the Council handled the positions that were reduced from full-time to part-time and if the rate was based on the position or the person. Commissioner Francis suggested that Mr. Marks contact Ralph Duckwall, Council President for further clarification. Mary Brown, Chief Deputy Auditor requested that clarification be provided to the Auditor's Office, as there is confusion on the interpretation of how the changes were made and what was intended.

## **INTRASECT**

Jim Dennison, Intrasect, advised the Board that they are continuing to work on a cost for the city portion of IT services. Mr. Dennison will bring the information to the next Board of Commissioner's meeting.

## **HIGHWAY ENGINEER**

Ken Einselen, County Engineer, brought in an LPA voucher for Bridge Inspection and work on the Kelly Avenue Bridge. Commissioner West made a motion to sign the voucher. Commissioner Hamman 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

Mr. Einselen provided to the Board a copy of the City Sidewalk Policy from Wabash for review.

Mr. Einselen asked about the handicap restroom signs that were removed from the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. The signs redirected the public to the handicap restroom located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. The Board of Commissioners was not sure whom or why they were removed. Mr. Einselen will talk to the Maintenance Dept. and get the signs replaced.

## **PROBATION**

Susan Rice, Chief Probation Officer, requested that the Board of Commissioners provide clarification on getting Cliff Gardner set-up for email in her department. Commissioner Francis stated that he gave approval to Intrasect and they should be getting the issue handled.

## **HIGHWAY**

The Board of Commissioners talked to Mike Sisson, Highway Superintendent, about the drainage issue at Sease Drive. Mr. Sisson had confirmed with the County Engineer that it is a private drive, not county owned, and the residents would be responsible for making repairs. Mr. Sisson stated that the County Engineer had contacted the homeowners to make them aware of the findings.

Mr. Sisson stated that the highway has patched the potholes at Grissom. Currently, he has 4 crews split up within the county working to address the worst areas first. Mr. Sisson stated that there are over 700 miles of county roads and they are working as fast as they can to patch the damaged areas.

Commissioner West notified Mr. Sisson and the Sheriff that Webster's Insurance is available to offer safety training sessions to their employees. Commissioner West requested that Mr. Sisson and Sheriff Miller make contact with Webster's Insurance to get a time scheduled.

## **SHERIFF**

Sheriff Tim Miller introduced Lisa Scroggins, Owner of Quality Correctional Care. Sheriff Miller stated that he and Pat Roberts, County Attorney reviewed the proposed contract and recommends that the county enters into a contract for inmate healthcare with Quality Correctional Care effective 5/23/15 and running until 12/31/18. Sheriff Miller explained that the current inmate healthcare contract does not include mental health services and allows for more onsite doctor care. Sheriff Miller pointed out that the older contract was about \$3000.00 more than the current contract, but having the additional services was worth the cost. Sheriff Miller also noted that at the end of the contract on 12/31/18, Quality Correctional Care has agreed to do a month-to-month contract until April 2019 to allow time for the new Sheriff to review the contract and decide if they would want to continue using the same inmate healthcare services.

The Board noted that there was a request to the Auditor's Office to advertise the Jail Landscape fund for \$19,000 to be used towards the purchase of the new jail maintenance vehicle. The Board will have to determine where they will want the remaining balance of \$6,000.00 to be paid from after funds are taken from Public Safety and Jail Landscape funds to be used towards the cost of the vehicle.

## **BECKER-MOCK BUILDING**

The Board of Commissioners received notice that they will be required to have 2 appraisals done by certified commercial appraisers before they can demolish the building. Commissioner West made a motion to hire 2 commercial appraisers. Commissioner Hamman 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0. Commissioner West will make contact with the appraisers.

## **CEDIT**

Mayor James Walker has made a request to the county to help with the cost of road repairs to Life Road. The total contribution by the county would be 1/3 of the cost up to \$25,000.00. Commissioner West made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Hamman 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0. Commissioner West noted that this is an appropriate use of CEDIT funds.

## **EMPLOYEE REIMBURSEMENT**

Mike Sisson, Highway Superintendent discussed with the Board about a Highway employee who is currently using his own personal diagnostic equipment to work on county trucks. The employee has been purchasing the software updates on his own. The employee does not mind using his equipment, but has asked the county to help offset some of the cost. Mr. Sisson requested that a 1-time stipend check for \$2500.00 be issued to the employee out of Highway funds. Commissioner Hamman made the motion to allow the reimbursement. Commissioner West 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

## **KOKOMO JACKRABBITS TICKETS**

The Board received information regarding purchasing group tickets for the Kokomo Jackrabbits. The Board declined.

## **MINUTES**

Commissioner West made a motion to approve the minutes from 4/20/15. Commissioner Hamman 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

## **PAYROLL**

Commissioner West made a motion to approve the payroll. Commissioner Hamman 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

## **CLAIMS**

Commissioner West made a motion to approve the claims. Commissioner Hamman 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

## **NICKEL PLATE TRAIL**

Craig Boyer came to the Board of Commissioners with concern over Rails to Trails wanting to purchase farmland from McGrawsville to Converse. Mr. Boyer stated that many farmers would be landlocked and not have access to their grounds. Commissioner Francis stated that the Board of Commissioners has no authority, but would have Pat Roberts, County Attorney look into the situation and see what protections there are for the landowners.

## **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Sandy Chittum, Miami County Chamber Director, came before the Board to request permission to allow the midway to open during Circus Week at 3pm. Ms. Chittum stated that there are several tourists that come in for the Circus and the midway does not open until 3. Commissioner Francis stated that he feels opening at 3pm would interfere with county business, but would not be opposed to opening at 4pm. Commissioner West made a motion to allow the midway open at 4pm. Commissioner Hamman 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

Ms. Chittum also discussed with the Board about the landscaping around the Courthouse. Ms. Chittum asked if there was a plan put in place and offered her assistance in getting help to plant perennials and update the landscaping. The Board stated that there is not a plan or funds available at this time, but are planning to have a couple of trees cut down in the next couple of weeks. Commissioner West asked if Master Gardner's would be interested in doing work on the landscaping. Ms. Chittum explained she could reach out to them, but the county would still have to provide the materials.

## **CLERK REQUEST**

Commissioner Francis discussed with the other Commissioners the need to reinstate one of the part-time positions to full-time in the Clerk's Office. Commissioner Francis stated that he has been into the office several times and talked with Tawna and they are struggling to keep up on their work due to the staff cuts. Commissioner West made a

motion to make the recommendation to the Council for the 2016 budget. Commissioner Hamman 2<sup>nd</sup> the message and it passed 3-0.

Commissioner Francis reminded the Board that there would be a work session on May 12, 2015 at 6pm to start discussing the 2016 budgets. Councilwoman Linda Harp, who was present during the meeting, noted that the Board of Commissioners and County Council needs to remember that they are making decisions that affect the employees, that both Boards remember whose money they are spending. Ultimately, it is the taxpayer and both Boards need to make sure there is a good balance between the taxpayer and their decisions.

**LPA CLAIM #4**  
Ken Einselen, County Engineer, brought in the LPA voucher for claim #4. Commissioner West made a motion to sign the voucher. Commissioner Hamman 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

Commissioner West made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Francis 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

**Adjourned**  
**MIAMI COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

\_\_\_\_\_, **Chairman**  
**Joshua Francis**

\_\_\_\_\_, **Vice Chairman**  
**Larry West**

\_\_\_\_\_, **Member**  
**Jerry Hamman**

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_, **Chief Deputy Auditor**  
**Mary Brown**